

**Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Monthly Staff Report**

**Name: Paul Gier**

**Month: March**

**Agriculture (118.0 hrs)**

- District farmers participated in the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program. The district processed 10 applications for a total grant money request of \$830,390.00. Projects are diverse and located throughout our Tompkins County geographic area. Reviewing the process and steps for creating Tier III plans that have resulted from meeting with cooperators seeking farmstead improvements. Site visits to existing cooperators looking to close out projects and begin new projects, as in the completion of the covered barnyard project for Calvin Snow, Snow Farms, Caroline NY. Meeting with new clients interested in AEM participation as a result of increased communication working among and between farmers.

**Water Quality ( 0 hrs)**

- I spent no time on Water Quality projects this month.

**Stormwater ( 0 hrs)**

- I spent no time working on Stormwater projects this month

**Invasive Species ( 0 hrs)**

I spent no time working on Invasive species projects

**District Operations ( 34 hrs)**

**Staff Meetings (\*Goal/Action/Activity)**

- Attending scheduled staff meetings during March.

**General Office operations**

- Answering phone calls, emails.
- SGW – receiving training and completing Soil Group Worksheets upon customer requests.
- Continued training on AEM Tier III planning.

**Personnel Development/Training (\* Goal/Action/Activity)**

- Attended Farming for Soil Health and Profit workshop and seminar in Schyler/Chemung Districts put on by CCE South Central Dairy & Field Crops Team and NRCS. Attended Water Quality Symposium meeting in Syracuse week of March 14<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>. Excellent training received on Rusle2 and CropWare technologies. Attended the BMP showcase segment with information gained on covered manure storages, viticulture waste water treatment and pervious parking paving technologies.

**Earned Income (30 hours)**

Worked on Soil Group Worksheets for customers upon submitted requests. Processed approximately 12 worksheets.

**Education & Outreach ( 4 hours)**

- Participated with local Elementary School during a family reading night event; theme is gardening and conservation topics. Introduced kids to conservation concepts and New York State agriculture products and production levels. Gave an informal presentation on soil health and composting, keeping the soil covered with creative plantings and pollinator flowers.
- Participating in Envirothon event at Hobart and Smith College in Geneva, manning booth at Empire Farm Days and New York State Fair representing Tompkins County.